

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12, and 13 are pending.

The Examiner finds patentable subject matter in claims 3, 7, 10 and 13, and indicates that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in suitable independent form.

However, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wright et al. US patent application Publication 2002/0018008 (“Wright”).

Applicants’ Reply

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s finding of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 7, 10, and 13.

Applicants have amended claims 6 and 8 for clarity. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 8

Claims 1, 6, and 8, were rejected as being anticipated by Wright.

Applicants’ invention, according to independent claims 1 and 6, relates to a wireless network communication method and a mobile unit, respectively, that are designed for adjusting mobile unit transmitter power level in response to transmitter/ access point power level data extracted from beacon signals sent out by an access point. Claim 1, for example, includes the recitation that the mobile unit power is adjusted in response to “the value of said access point transmitter power level data included in said beacon signals”. Similarly, claim 6 calls for a mobile unit processor configured to extract “access points power level data included in beacon signals,” in response to which the mobile unit transmitter power is adjusted.

Further, applicants' invention, according to claim 8, relates to a method for controlling interference in a wireless local area network having multiple access points and mobile units. The transmission power (i.e. transmission range) of the mobile units is adjusted in proportion to access point spacing to minimize overlap and hence interference. More particularly, the transmission power is adjusted in response to "access points power level data is transmitted within said beacon signals."

Applicants respectfully submit that at least these features of claims 1, 6 and 8 are not shown, taught or suggested by Wright. Wright describes a flight information communication system in which a plurality of RF direct sequence spread spectrum ground data units (GDL) are deployed to download data from or upload data to aircraft-resident subsystems. (See Abstract, FIG. 1, etc.). As the Examiner correctly notes Wright uses a wireless router (201) to receive flight performance data via the wireless ground data link from an aircraft's GDL unit. (See Para [0011]). Further, the Examiner correctly notes that wireless router 201 continuously broadcasts an interrogation beacon that contains information representative of the emitted power level restrictions of the airport. (See e.g., Para [0055]). However, applicants further note "the GDL unit 111 on board the aircraft responds to this beacon signal by adjusting its emitted power to a level that will not exceed communication limitations imposed by the jurisdiction governing the airport." (See e.g., Para [0055]). Thus, Wright is not concerned about the transmitter power level of the wireless routers (201) themselves. In particular, Wright does not describe or suggest "transmitting from an access point to said mobile unit beacon signals that also include data representing transmitter power level for said access point" or "receiving at said mobile unit said access point transmitter power level data." Further in Wright, the GDL unit "on board the aircraft responds to this beacon signal by adjusting its emitted power to a level that will not

exceed communication limitations imposed by the jurisdiction governing the airport.” (See Para [0055]). In particular, Wright does not describe or suggest “adjusting transmitter power level of said mobile unit in accordance with the value of said access point transmitter power level data included in said beacon signals.” Thus Wright fails to anticipate claims 1, 6 and 8, all of which involve transmission of and response to “transmitter” or “access point” power level information.

For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 6 and 8 are patentable over Wright.

Dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13

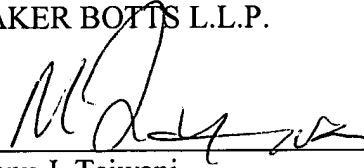
Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected as being anticipated by Wright.

Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are patentable over Wright, for at least the same reasons that their respective parent claims 1, 6, and 8 are patentable, which are discussed above.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for early resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
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